The Hawthorn Group Post Midterm Analysis

November 18th, 2022

I. What Happened II. How it Happened (Why) III. What it Means



I. What Happened

"The Red Wave Did Not Reach Shore"

- Hassan in New Hampshire (8)
- Hochul in New York (6)
- Fetterman in Pennsylvania (4)
- Whitmer in Michigan (11)
- Evers in Wisconsin
- Kelly in Kansas
- Bennet in Colorado (14)
- Lujan Grisham in New Mexico (6)
- Kelly in Arizona (5)
- Cortez-Masto in Nevada
- Murray in Washington (15)
- Democrat for Gov. in Oregon's three-way race
- Peltola in Alaska (47-27-24 with 80%)
- Spanberger and Wexton in Virginia
- Davids in Kansas (12)
- Three US House Democrats in Nevada
- Bass beat Caruso for Mayor in Los Angeles

A Veteran Republican's Morning-After Assessment

As Dan Balz and Dan Keating quoted in the 11/9 POST

"With inflation at a 40-year high, crime out of control in many cities, and our Southern border still porous, coupled with Joe Biden's approval in the low 40's, Republicans should have run away with this election," said Whit Ayers, a Republican pollster. "It should never have been close."



GOP Had Some Victories

- Re-elected DeSantis (by 20 pts.), carried Miami/Dade, added critical GOP House wins
- Elected Vance (by 6.6 pts.) and Budd (by 3.6 pts.)
- Re-elected Stitt (despite \$28M)
- Elected Kris Kobach
- Won GA Gov (2nd) and boosted Herschel into runoff
- Defeated Beto in Texas, his third loss in four years
- Defeated DCCC Chair Sean Maloney, flipping four Democrat House districts in NY
- Defeated Sisolak
- Won narrow control of House
- Positioned to take Senate in '24



Election Deniers Had Mixed Results for Election Control

Trump-endorsed Election Deniers lost SoS races in Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona & Nevada but one America First Coalition member won in Montana, and Deniers won in Alabama, Indiana, South Dakota and Wyoming.



Pollsters

Also had a mixed night



State Legislatures 6,279/7,383

Democrats gained:

Pennsylvania House Michigan House Minnesota Senate



"Last Hurrahs"

It should mean last race for:

- Stacy Abrams
- Beto O'Rourke
- Charlie Crist
- Paul LePage
- Sarah Palin



Ballot Issues

Abortion (5/6)

Marijuana

Maryland and Missouri Colorado North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas

California

Prop. 30 41.4 – 58.6 Gaming 30-70 and 17-83 Dialysis 30-70 (3rd time) Flavored Cigarettes Ban, 62-38 (Bloomberg)



Ultimately, "the quality of the candidate matters"

Walker Oz (Fetterman) Bolduc Dixon Masters Laxalt LePage Election Deniers for Secretary of State (Michigan, Arizona, Nevada)



Voters made distinct choices

NH	Gov (+15) / Sen (+10)
VT	Gov (+47) / Sen (+40)
PA	Gov (+14) / Sen (+4)
GA	Gov (+7) / Sen (+1) *
WI	Gov (+3) / Sen (+1)
KS	Gov (+2) / Sen (+23)
NV	Gov (+2) / Sen (+0.7)
AZ	Gov (+1) / Sen (+6)

OK GOP Gov (+14) / Lt. Gov (+30)

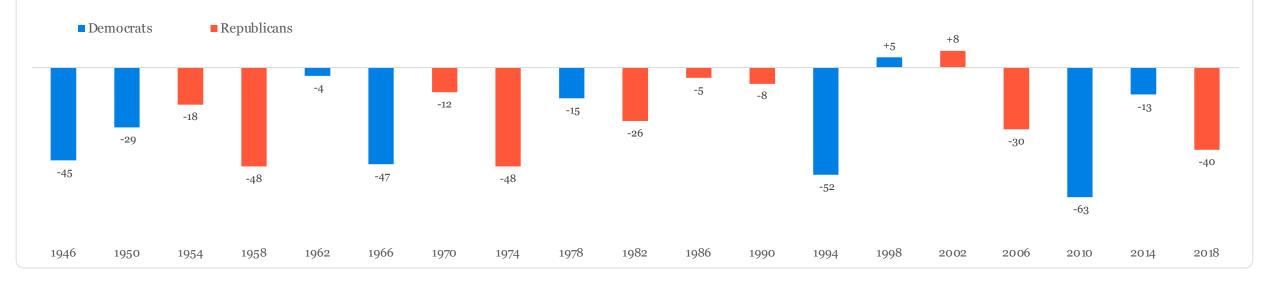


Voters broke the first mid-term rule



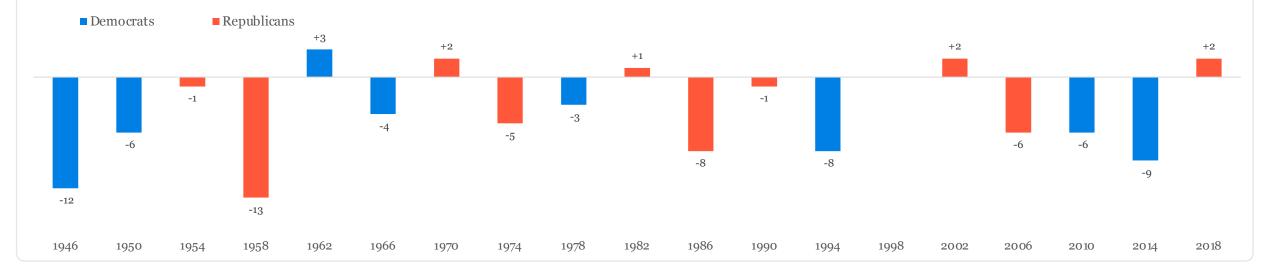
President's party gain/loss of seats in House

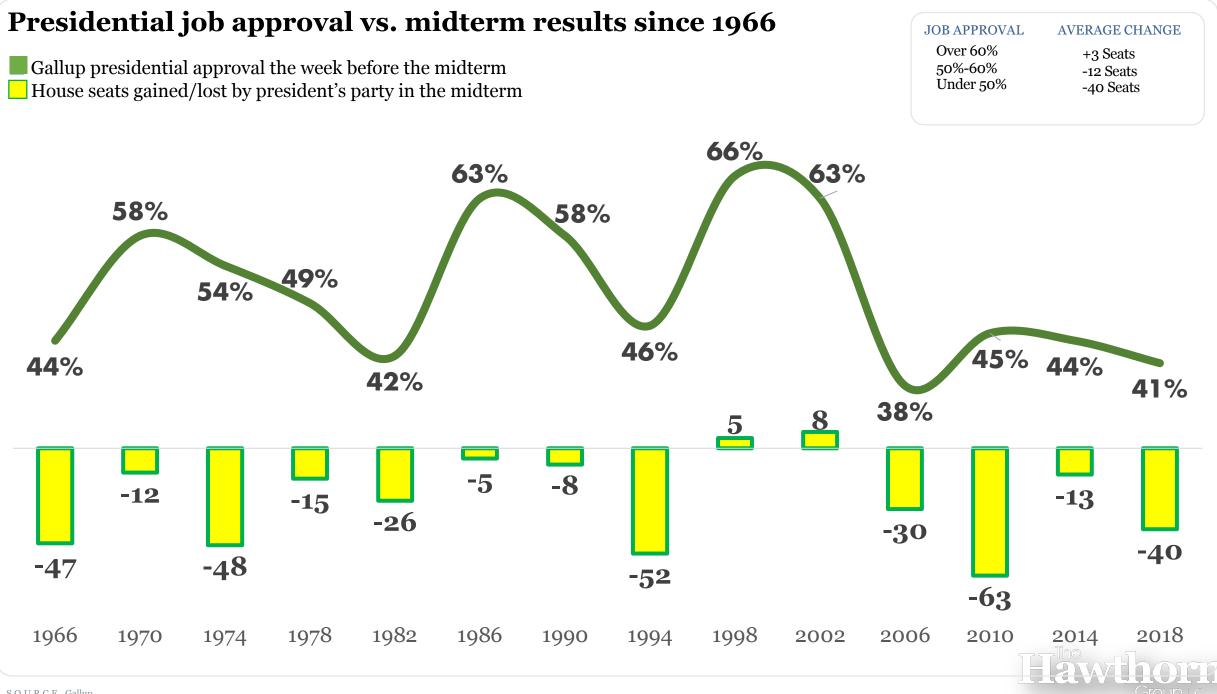
MIDTERM ELECTIONS, 1946-2018

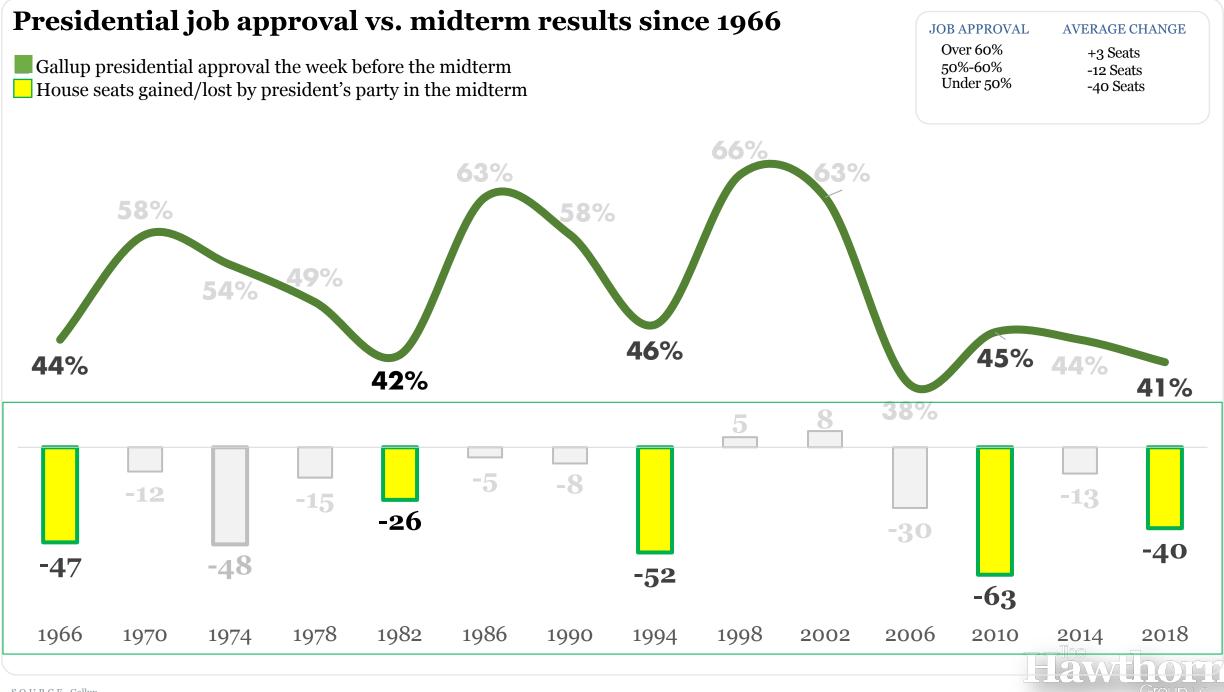


President's party gain/loss of seats in Senate

MIDTERM ELECTIONS, 1946-2018



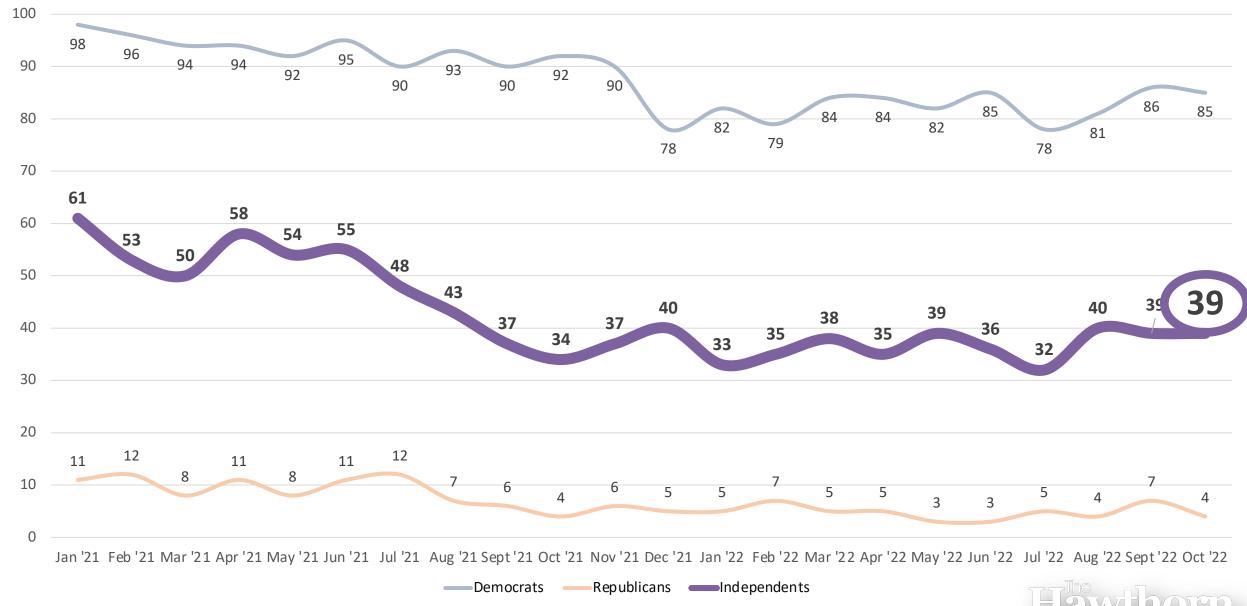




Independents unexpectedly broke for Democrats



Biden Approval Since Inauguration by Party ID



Source: Gallup

Third parties mattered

Georgia Senate Kansas Governor Oregon Governor

Voters of color moved right, just not at rates predicted

Educated whites and non-college grad. Blacks saved Democrats

DSCC investment in field exceeded TV first time

TV ads varied from good to awful





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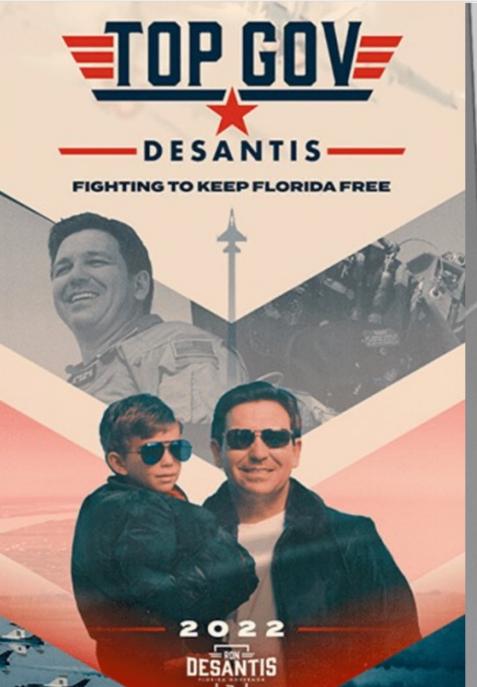
WHITMER GILCHRST FOR MICHIGAN



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George BUSSH

"A presidency can shape an era — and it can change our lives. A successful presidency can give meaning to an age."

George Bush conter 15, 1917

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III.What It Means

What It Means

Bad election for Trump.

Worse for:

McConnell Scott McCarthy Pelosi Maloney

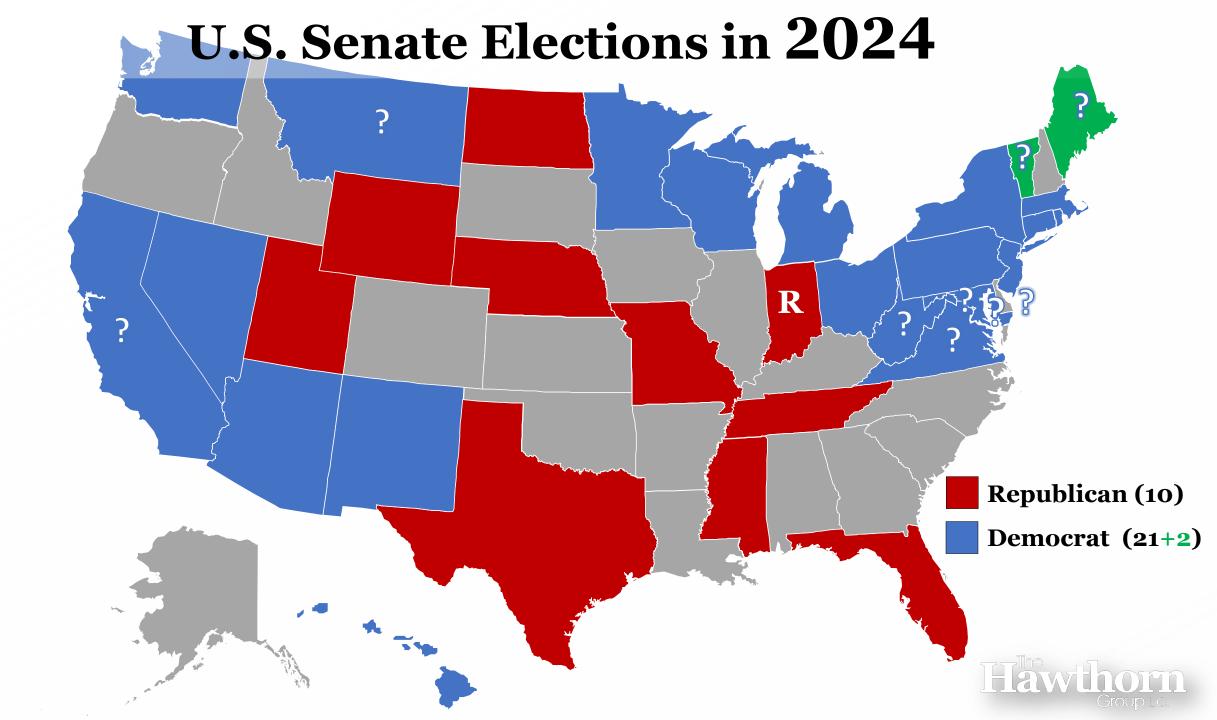


What It Means

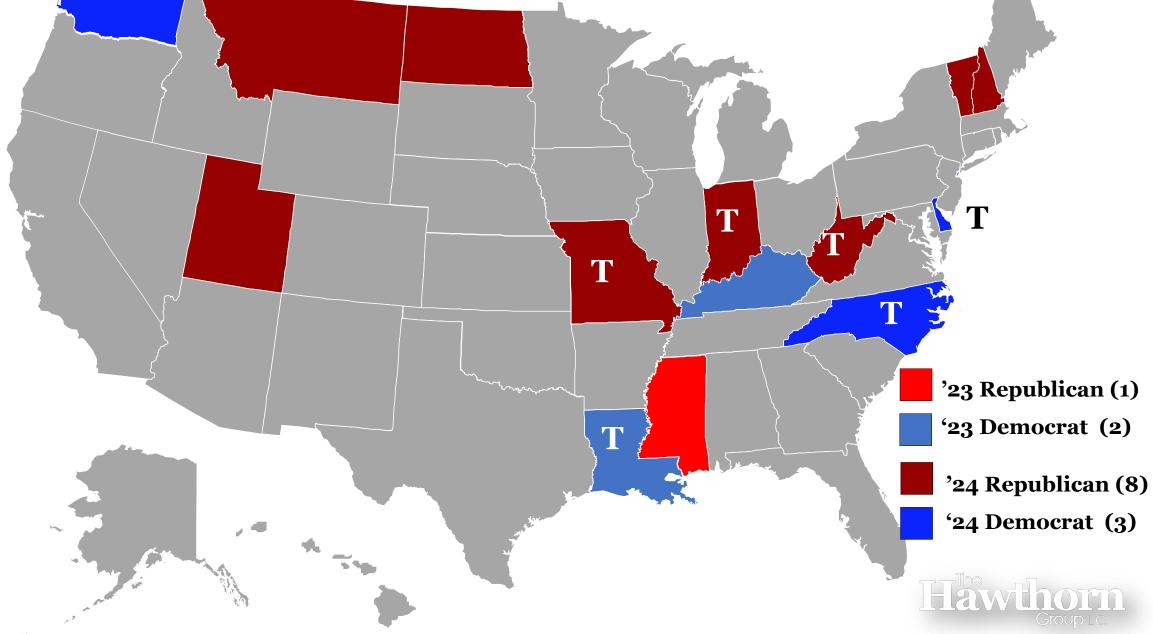
Presidential race is already underway

- Started long before November 8
- Watch DeSantis with FL legislature (potential for state victory/national overreach)

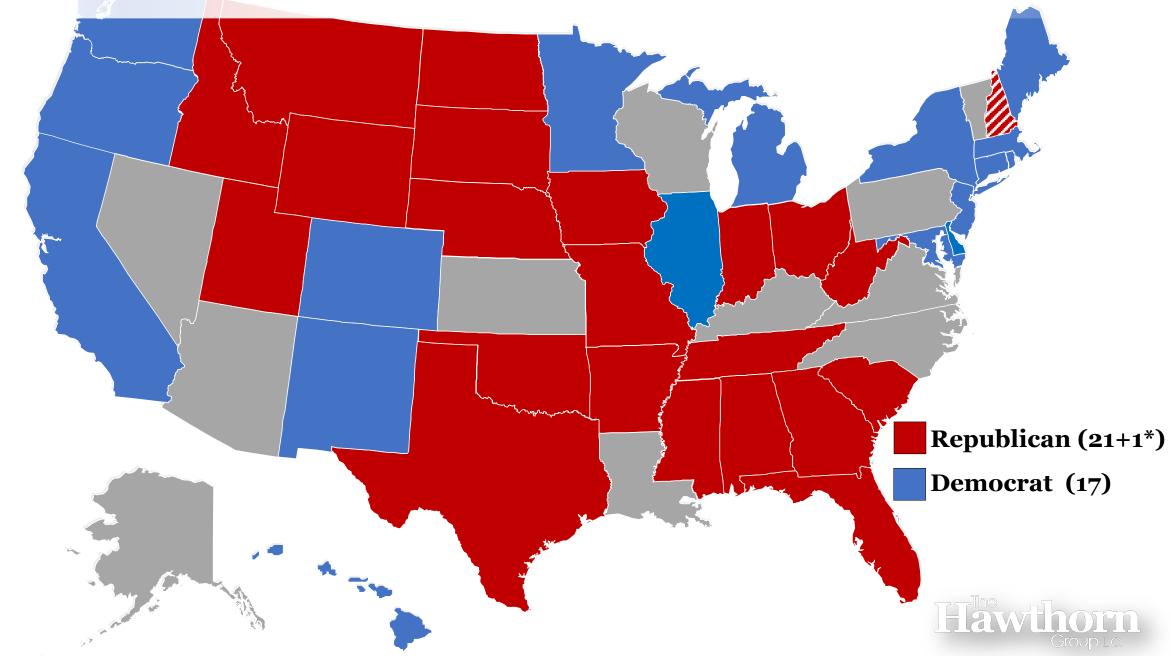




U.S. Governor Elections in 2023/2024



State Government Trifectas Post-2022 Election



What It Means

Parties are Dysfunctional

- Despite challenges and early defections, Republicans are hostage to Trump
- Democrats are not "an organized political party"



What It Means

Electorate:

- Deeply divided
- Highly volatile
- Increasingly ungovernable



What It Means – Quote #1

"I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is not vice. And let me remind you that moderation in the pursuit of justice is not virtue."

> Barry M. Goldwater, 1964 (1909 - 1998)



What It Means – Quote #2

"There's nothing in the middle of the road in Texas but a yellow line and dead armadillos."

James A. Hightower, 1998 (1943 -)

